

Timely Tidbits ...

Taylor Tax Bills Online

City of Taylor replica tax bills and payment information are available online for most tax parcels at the City Web site, www.cityoftaylor.com. Just follow the links to online services and tax information to find the balance due on your 2007 tax bills or the amounts paid for tax purposes.

Taxpayers should use their canceled check or mortgage statement as their receipt. A statement of taxes levied will not be issued by the Treasurer's office this month. Reference the available information online.

Computers are available for public use at the Taylor Community Library (12303 Pardee), or for seniors at the William Ford Senior Activity Center (6750 Troy).

King Celebration Set

The annual Romulus Community Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day will be held on Monday, January 21.

The day will begin at 8 a.m. with a "march" along Wayne Road from Cory Elementary to Romulus High School. (Bus transport from RHS to Cory will depart at 7:45 a.m.)

From 8 to 9:45 a.m., breakfast (donated by the City of Romulus and the Romulus Education Association, and prepared by the RHS Athletics Department) will be served at RHS, followed by a commemorative program held in the school auditorium from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Louise Briody (734-532-1600), Ellen Craig-Bragg (532-1000), or Reverend Arthur Willis (313-701-2423).

Lambert To Give "State of the City" Address

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert will give his annual "State of the City" Address at the January 15 business luncheon of the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce.

Registration for the luncheon – to be held at the Crowne Plaza (8000 Merriman, Romulus) – will begin at 11:30 a.m.; lunch will follow at noon.

Cost is \$15 for Chamber members; \$18 for nonmembers. To make a reservation (by January 11), please call 734-893-0694 or send an e-mail to info@romuluschamber.com. □

New Recreation Center Could Still Open in February



Although back-ordered pool tiles have delayed the completion of the beautiful new Romulus Recreation Center, Mayor Alan R. Lambert says there is still a possibility that the facility could be open by the end of February.

Area residents disappointed by reports of a delay in the opening of the new Romulus Recreation Center may soon hear some good news after all, according to Mayor Alan R. Lambert.

On Thursday, Lambert told *the little paper* that the last of the work to be done – the installation of tiles in the Center's five pools – had been held up because the tiles were on back-order. But it now appears that

the job could be finished in as little as five weeks.

"We're all working really hard, doing everything we can to get those doors open

continued on page 4

State Honors Reverend Willis for Service to the Community

The Michigan Recreation and Parks Association has recognized Reverend Arthur C. Willis, Pastor of the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church in Romulus, with its Community Service Award for 2008. Willis and other honorees were formally acknowledged during an awards ceremony held on January 9 at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

Perhaps the best known of Reverend Willis's many endeavors is his work on the community's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, which he spearheads. In fact, the event has come to be one of the largest such celebrations in all of Wayne County.

Willis also serves as the chairman of the Romulus Mayor's Drug Task Force, which awards college scholarships to high-school graduates and sponsors drug- and alcohol-awareness programs for youth.

Still other volunteer efforts include serving on the Romulus Boys & Girls Club advisory board and organizing 3-on-3 community basketball tournaments.

Although he was unable to attend the ceremony, Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert spoke glowingly of Willis's work on behalf of local residents.

"Reverend Willis has helped the City of Romulus so many times and in so many ways," said Lambert. "This MRPA Award

is well-deserved recognition for the passion and commitment that he displays to all members of the Romulus community." □



Among those attending a ceremony recognizing Reverend Arthur C. Willis (second from left), a Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Community Service Award recipient, were (from left) Kristin Irwin, director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation; Janice Willis, wife of Reverend Willis; Gina Wilson, director, PEN Enrichment Center; Sheila Stewart, secretary, Romulus Recreation Department; and Tayna Cofield, programs coordinator, Romulus Recreation.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.

The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

As always, opinions expressed in "Letters to the Editor" are not necessarily shared by the staff of the little paper.

Crout Should Resign

To the Editor:

I have a question; maybe one of your readers can provide the answer.

Why is the City of Romulus wasting \$7,500 a year? Over a four-year period of time, it will come to \$30,000 that Harry Crout has drawn as a member of the City Council.

Are we getting our money's worth? I don't think so, since I don't believe he can read or understand his council packet. That is why, in my opinion, he has opposed the City's proposal to buy laptops for each council member and provide the information packets via e-mail. (Mrs. Crout would not have the opportunity to brief her husband.) With an electronic packet in front of him, Councilman Crout will become just another spectator in the audience with one exception: he will have a better seat.

Romulus resident John Clark has taken it upon himself to be the spokesperson for Councilman Crout, his friend of more than 30 years, and has reflected his friend's beliefs in many letters to *the little paper* as well as in remarks made at numerous council meetings.

Unfortunately, their continued attacks on Mayor Alan Lambert and other officials are having a negative impact on the city as a whole.

Imagine, for instance, that you are a businessman interested in establishing your company in Romulus. The first thing you would look at is what the community has to offer. With regard to transportation, you would almost certainly be impressed, since Romulus is crossed by two major freeways, has a major airport, and also has accessible rail lines.

You would also look for employees – and that may be a stumbling block. If you, as a prospective employer, have seen and heard the comments in *the little paper* and at the council meetings, you may judge the rest of the people of Romulus based on the image projected by Councilman Crout and Mr. Clark.

Can we afford to continue on this path of self-destruction?

In the past, I have asked Councilman Crout to resign. He is not effective, and is just wasting our funds.

I believe that other Romulus City Council members are tired of being made to look like fools because of the antics of these two individuals.

I'm asking the Council to censure Harry Crout and remove him from office.

Todd Hauter, AO1 USN (retired)

Romulus

Give a Helping Hand

To the Editor:

I want to thank everyone who donated food to the Helping Hand of Romulus, especially during the holidays. Special thanks go to the American Progressive Association, which donated over \$100 worth of groceries; the Romulus firefighters, who also made a generous contribution; and the local Boy Scouts, who have recently made a number of donations.

Due to Michigan's economic woes, there are a lot of families in need. The number of home-owners who are facing foreclosure is increasing at an alarming rate. Jobs are being lost. The need for assistance continues to grow. Helping Hand needs our help to help others.

One of the Helping Hand's biggest needs is food. Meat, canned goods, and boxed goods are all welcome. Remember: If you can donate just one can of food, that's one can that Helping Hand didn't have before. Working together with Helping Hand, we can make a difference in many lives.

Harry Crout, Councilman
City of Romulus

APA Thanked

To the Editor:

Thank you, American Progressive Association (APA), for keeping the Thomas J. Coleman Community Center (located on Beverly Road in Romulus) going. We acknowledge the Coleman Center's past accomplishments, but, more importantly, we recognize that it's all about making a difference today, and the APA is proud to do just that.

The American Progressive Association is the backbone of the Coleman Center with its donations of money and time. Without the APA's support, the Coleman Center would be just another empty building.

Also, thanks to everyone who has made or will be making a donation to the Coleman Center, allowing new items to be purchased and repairs made for the benefit of all of us. No matter how much you give – whether it's one dollar or a million, or one

hour or fifty hours of time – your donation will improve the Coleman Center and help us meet the challenges we face today. (I, Marie Charles, would like to personally thank the six generous ladies who made monetary donations to the Thomas J. Coleman Community Center in 2007.)

We citizens must give back to the communities we live in and help with the financial challenges we face. In January of 2002, President Bush called on us to make a difference in our communities through volunteer service. Through your service and donations, the Coleman Center will be strengthened. We should all do our part because the Coleman Center is a great place to come to. We should speak in one voice, saying, "We care about the Thomas J. Coleman Community Center."

Community togetherness will make a real difference in our neighborhood. If we didn't have volunteers from APA, we would not have events like the Christmas Dinner that was recently purchased, cooked, and served by APA members, and given freely to all of the 150 persons who came and received a full-course dinner.

The APA has given back to the community throughout the year. Support and time committed by APA members enhance the quality enjoyed by all who come to the Coleman Center.

I would ask that the APA stand up and be applauded for the services it provides.

Marie Charles

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One Year Later: Taylor Exemplar Academy Continues To Strive for Student Excellence



Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe visited classrooms at Taylor Exemplar Academy to learn more about the school's strategies for success.

Fifteen months ago, Taylor Exemplar Academy first opened its doors to 290 students in grades K-5. Today, nearly 500 students attend the Goddard Road school, which will add a grade each year up to the eighth grade.

"Rich in its diversity, the school creates an atmosphere of high academic expectations to prepare students for success in high school, college, and beyond," stated TEA principal Phil Price. "In partnership with parents and the community, Taylor Exemplar Academy provides a challenging academic program that is aligned with Michigan Core Curriculum Content Standards."

According to Price, Taylor Exemplar has been dedicated to creating eager learners and civic-minded students from day one, and has made tremendous strides to help its students achieve. In its first year alone, there was a 14% increase in reading proficiency among the school's students.

A public charter school open to all students, Taylor Exemplar is authorized by Bay Mills Community College and is managed by National Heritage Academies, which Price called a leading charter school operator with a vision to better educate more children. The academy's teaching practices and atmosphere received a "highly satisfied" ranking from 92% of the parents during the 2006-2007 school year. This led to TEA earning the number-one ranking among all of National Heritage Academies' 55 schools in the category of Parent Satisfaction.

In honor of the school's success, Taylor Mayor Cameron Priebe recently paid a visit to Taylor Exemplar. During a tour of the facility, Mayor Priebe visited a number of the school's classrooms, sitting in on several innovative instructional programs and meeting many of the school's teaching staff. (All of TEA's teachers hold valid teaching certificates, and 50% hold master's degrees.) TEA's paraprofessionals provide supplemental instruction to students.

"Taylor Exemplar Academy provides educational opportunities that prepare stu-

dents for the future," Priebe said. "I am especially impressed by the 'four pillars' [academic excellence, moral focus, parental partnership, and student responsibility] philosophy that helps students become responsible citizens. I wish every school taught morality, responsibility, respect, courage, and perseverance. As a relatively new charter school, the academy complements our excellent educational system in Taylor."

"As it continues to establish itself as a leading school in the area, Taylor Exemplar will look to add programs and resources to maximize each student's educational experience," explained Price. This year, for instance, the school has introduced several new extracurricular programs, including basketball, soccer, and cheerleading.

"Building on the 'four pillars' philosophy, we have developed a culture that challenges each student to achieve in school, while providing building blocks for each student to become caring community citizens," Price stated. "Not only has the community completely supported our goals and efforts, but, through their involvement, they are a critical component in the success of our students."

A cornerstone of success for National Heritage Academies' schools is parental involvement. With an understanding that parents are an integral element in a child's education, Taylor Exemplar has established an "open-door" policy to ensure that the lines of communication are always open. This approach keeps parents informed and engaged with school activities.

"The success of our school is predicated on the continued dedication of our teaching staff, the commitment of our students, and support of parents and residents," Price said. "In such a short time, we've already seen tremendous individual growth and accomplished so much as a group."

"We look forward to serving the children and families of Taylor for many years to come," he added. □

APA Volunteers Serve Christmas Dinner to 150 Local Residents



The American Progressive Association of Romulus provided a free, full-course holiday meal to 150 people who came out to the Thomas J. Coleman Community Center on December 14. Pictured above are some of the volunteers and diners.

Rec Center Could Still Open in February

continued from page 1

as soon as possible," said Lambert. "I know that our residents are as excited and anxious as I am to begin using this beautiful facility."

"Beautiful" is just one of many complimentary words that people are using to describe the new recreation center, which was the setting for the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas party last month. Those who attended the event were impressed, indeed.

"It's amazing," said Kathleen Trent, a former City of Romulus public relations director who now works in PR for the City of Taylor. "The facility has many of the features that residents identified as priorities in a previous City survey, including a climbing wall and teen center. I think it's going to serve the citizens of Romulus very well."

Other sure-to-be-popular attractions are an 8,000-square-foot workout area, an indoor track, two full gymnasiums along with a youth gym, "family" locker rooms,

and day-care facilities.

Although membership costs have not yet been finalized, City of Romulus Economic Development director Tim Keyes stated that yearly fees for individuals will run around \$225, while families will pay about \$400.

The City is currently working with Rink Management, the company recently hired to handle the center's day-to-day operations, to establish final figures.

Keyes also noted that Rink Management will be hiring nearly a hundred part- and full-time employees, and has pledged to give priority to Romulus residents whenever possible. □

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NAACP Presents Voter Forum



A voter forum presented at the Romulus Civic League by the Western Wayne County branch of the NAACP provided helpful information about Michigan's Presidential Primary, set for January 15. Among those who participated were (from left) Carl Johnson, NAACP Executive Committee member; Melvin "Butch" Hollowell, attorney; Bo Schimer, attorney; Lucille Flint-Johnson, NAACP branch president; Judge Dalton Roberson; Linda Choate, Romulus City Clerk; and Portia Roberson, attorney.

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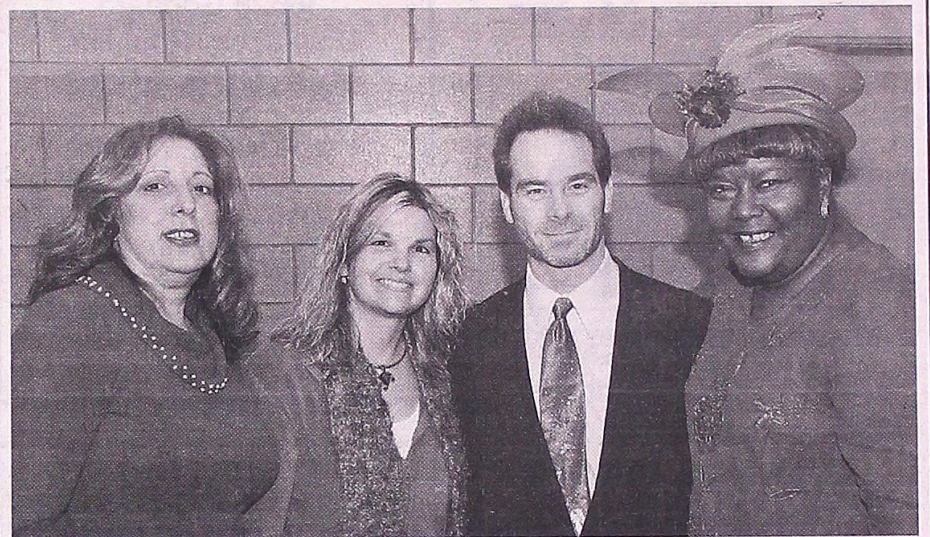
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Around Romulus



(From left) Among those who served dinner at the Romulus Senior Center's Christmas Gala were (from left) Wayne County Executive Assistant Jakleen Ochalek, 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green and Judge David M. Parrott, and American Progressive Association member Marie Charles.



Romulus Community High School students like (from left) Vincent Barksdale, Durrell Curry, Douglas Lawrence, Jessica Davis, Daniel Maxwell, Neami Logod, and Bryan Morrissey participated in a Core Democratic Values service project that garnered 611 canned-food items for the local Salvation Food Bank.

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A toy drive organized by Romulus High School LEAGUE and Student Council members encouraged fellow students to donate items for the Romulus Goodfellows' "No Child without a Christmas" program. At least 310 students participated in the drive, which garnered \$1,127 worth of toys. Pictured above are Romulus Fire Chief David Allison and Fire Station #4 secretary Jill Martin (back, left and right), who accepted the donation from LEAGUE advisers Shannon Collum (left) and Stefanie Carpenter (right), as well as (from left) LEAGUE representative Becca Lewis and students Jackie, Joya, Janiece, and Jenny Johnson.

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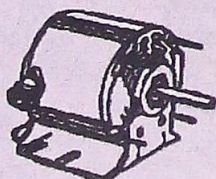
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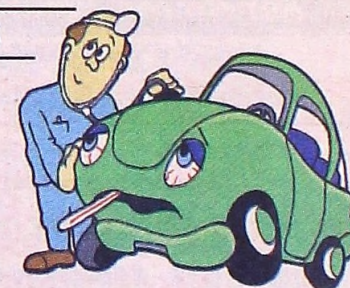
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- Watch while transmission or other components are being custom rebuilt

If you are not knowledgeable, you are welcome to bring someone who is

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Community Calendar

- **Roast Beef Dinner at CUMC**—Community United Methodist Church (located at 11160 Olive, corner of Bibbins, in Romulus) will host a Roast Beef Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, January 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6 to 12; children 5 and under get in free. For carry-out orders, call 734-941-0736.
- **Texas Hold 'Em Tournament** – A Texas Hold 'Em Tournament to benefit the Romulus High School Robotics Club will be held at Romulus Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga) on Saturday, January 12. Doors will open at 3 p.m.; playing will start at 5 p.m. Cash pay-outs will be given to the last 7 players, with a top prize of up to \$1,000 (based on a minimum of 60 entries). Buy-in for each player is \$35; one add-on is \$15. No re-buys allowed.
- **Second Monday Book Club** – Meetings of the Romulus Public Library's Second Monday Book Club—open to everyone 18 and older—are held at the library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required; just read the suggested book, then drop in. Books planned for discussion in the near future include *The Mystery of Breathing* by Perri Klass (January 14) and *Telegraph Days* by Larry McMurtry (February 11). For more information, call 734-942-7589.
- **Craft Time at the Taylor Library** – The next Craft Time Fun program at the Taylor Community Library (12303 Pardee) is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23. Children in grades kindergarten through three will be decorating a computer mouse pad. Each class is limited to 20 children. Preregistration is required. For more information, call (734) 287-4840.
- **Title** – The Taylor Northeast Little League is offering half-off registration for the upcoming season at the following dates and times only: Saturday, January 26, from noon to 4 p.m.; Sunday, January 27, from 1 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, February 2, from noon to 4 p.m., and Sunday, February 3, from 1 to 4 p.m. Registration is open to boys and girls ages 4 to 18 for T-ball, baseball, and softball. Participants must live within League boundaries, and provide proper documentation and birth certificate to be eligible. Taylor Northeast is located at 21720 Wick Road between Mortenvue and Pardee roads. For more information, call 313-291-7576.
- **"Polar Science Adventure"** – The Romulus Public Library (located at 11121 Wayne Road) will join the Ann Arbor Exhibit Museum of Natural History and University of Michigan science students to present a free Family Reading/Science series aimed at kids ages 6 to 11. The hands-on programs will include: *Ice Worlds: Why Are the Poles So Cold?* (Monday, January 28th, at 6 p.m.), *Frosty Life: Surviving the Poles* (Monday, February 25, at 6 p.m.), and *Melting Away: Protecting the Poles* (Monday, March 31, at 6 p.m.). For more information on these family-friendly programs, call 734-942-7589.
- **Roast Beef Dinner at CUMC**—Community United Methodist Church (located at 11160 Olive, corner of Bibbins, in Romulus) will host a Roast Beef Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, February 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6 to 12; children 5 and under get in free. For carry-out orders, call 734-941-0736.
- **Comedy Night** – The Romulus Band Boosters have joined forces with the Metropolitan Hotel of Romulus and Project 2 Improv to present a Comedy Night fundraiser at the hotel on Saturday, February 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the event—which will feature Project 2 Improv members John Thiede, Julie Morris, Brian Titus, Mike Ross, Julie Franklin, Stephanie Hillier, and Julian Gant—may be obtained by calling Rob McLachlan at 734-941-3829. One hundred percent of the ticket sales will go directly to the Boosters to support Romulus band programs.
- **Blood Drive** – The City of Romulus will conduct a Red Cross blood drive at the Senior Center (36525 Bibbins) on Wednesday, February 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please contact Julie Wojtylko (734-955-4501).
- **Silent Auction and Wine Tasting** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host its ninth annual Silent Auction and Wine Tasting at the Metropolitan Hotel (31500 Wick, Romulus) from 6:15 to 10 p.m. on Friday, March 14. Participants will also enjoy a menu of hors d'oeuvre (crab vol au vent with a sweet remoulade), salad (mesclun mix with roma tomato; served with a cherry or balsamic vinaigrette), entrée (petit filet of beef with a pine nut borsin demi and seared mahi mahi, Yukon gold mashed potatoes, and steamed asparagus with baby carrots), and dessert (forest berry mousse in a tulip cup). Tickets are \$50 each. Tax-deductible donations are also welcome. For more information, call the Chamber office at 734-893-0694.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; e-mail it to thelittlepaper@comcast.net; or FAX it to 734-992-2052.

Recreation Programs

For more information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate recreation department.

Brownstown

21311 Telegraph • 734-675-0920

Daddy/Daughter Date Night

Date Night is a great opportunity for fathers and daughters to spend a fun evening together. The event – to be held at the Community Center on Friday, February 8, from 6 to 7:15 p.m. (Session I) and 7:45 to 9 p.m. (Session II) – will feature music, dancing, punch and cookies, and a beautiful corsage for Daughter, as well as a special gift for Dad. Girls ages 3 and up (accompanied by an adult) are welcome.

Cost is \$15 per couple, plus \$3 for each additional daughter. Space is limited.

Mom & Tot Crafts

Moms and children (ages 2 to 5) will complete a craft project each day in this program, which will meet at the Community Center from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturdays from January 26 through February 23.

Cost (includes all supplies) is \$41 for residents; \$46 for nonresidents.

Karate

Learn both Korean and Japanese karate in this comprehensive martial arts program for ages 4 to adult. Weapons work is featured at higher levels. Classes – held at the Community Center – include:

- **Little Dragons** – Youngsters ages 4 to 6 learn proper stretching, exercise, and games to promote balance, focus, discipline, teamwork, and basic martial-arts skills. Students have their own belt system based on class attendance and performance. Classes meet Mondays from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$40 per month.
- **Basic Karate** – This traditional martial-arts program teaches self-defense through balance, focus, teamwork, and discipline. Certified instructors teach and evaluate students using the traditional testing and belt system. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. for ages 7 to 12; and from 7 to 9 p.m. for ages 13 to adult. Cost is \$55 per month.
- **Modern Arnis** – This program features a Filipino style of martial arts known for its knife, stick, and sword work. The class, open only to instructor-approved advanced-level adults, meets Wednesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$30 per month.

Adult Fitness

- **Cardio, Core, & Conditioning** – This 10-week session for all fitness levels will meet at Hunter School (21320 Roche) Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. starting January 21. Mat and hand weights are required; step is optional. Cost for residents is \$41 for one class or \$61 for two; nonresidents add \$5.

- **Body Ball** – This 10-week program will meet at the Community Center on Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. starting January 22. Required equipment includes a mat (yoga or pilates type preferred), hand weights, and a body ball (burst-resistant ball is *highly recommended*; participants should select a ball according to their height). Cost is \$41 for residents; \$46 for nonresidents.

- **Pilates for Fitness** – Featuring cross-training routines with intense ab & thigh workouts, this 10-week program will be held at the Community Center on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning January 21. Required equipment includes a mat and free weights. Cost for residents is \$41 for one class or \$61 for two; nonresidents add \$5.

- **The Mix** – This 10-week session of aerobic dance, kickboxing, standing and floor abs routines, and stretching will be held at the Community Center on Saturdays from 8 to 9 a.m. starting January 26. Required equipment includes light weights and a mat. Cost is \$41 for residents; \$46 for nonresidents.

- **Getting Stronger** – Designed to burn fat, elevate metabolism, and strengthen bones and muscles, this 10-week program will be held at the Community Center on Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. beginning January 21. Required equipment includes a mat and two sets of weights (light/heavy). Cost for residents is \$41 for one class or \$61 for two; nonresidents add \$5.

Romulus

11189 Shook • 734-941-8665

Abakadoodle

In partnership with Crayola and based on child-centered learning principles, Abakadoodle, the popular art education program, is now available in Romulus! Kids learn about color, texture, and shape through hands-on lessons in drawing, painting, sculpting, digital photography, fabric design, paper art, mosaics, collages, and more.

After each class, children will take home a framed piece of art, labeled with information about key concepts or vocabulary introduced in that day's lesson.

Classes include:

- **Twoosy Doodlers** (ages 20 to 36 months) – 10 to 10:45 a.m. Saturdays from January 12 through February 16 at the Recreation Department.
- **Mini Doodlers** (ages 3 to 6 years) – 11 to 11:45 a.m. Saturdays from January 12 through February 16 at the Recreation Department.

- **After-school Program** (ages 7 to 12) – 3 to 3:45 p.m. Wednesdays from January 16 through February 20 at Barth Elementary School.

Cost for each session is \$72, plus an additional onetime materials charge of \$12. Preregistration is required.

For more info, call 734-495-0900 or visit www.abrakadoodle.com.

Youth Basketball Clinic

Youth basketball clinics will be held at Romulus Elementary School from 6 to 8 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, January 14 (boys in grades 3 and 4; girls in grades 3 to 5).
- Wednesday, January 16 (boys in grades 5 and 6; girls in grades 6 to 8).

Cost is \$5 (cash only). Register at the door.

Youth Gymnastics

Learning new skills is emphasized in this program, which will meet at the Recreation Department from 6 to 6:45 p.m. each Thursday from January 24 through February 28. Open to boys and girls ages 5 to 7 years old.

Cost is \$54. Preregister by Monday, January 21.

Hip-Hop Dance for Youths

Hip-hop dance promotes physical fitness, coordination, poise, and creativity through the use of basic dance skills and jazz and hip-hop moves. Great music and a fast pace make this a fun program for ages 4 to 15.

Classes will meet at the Recreation Department each Saturday from January 19 through February 23 between 10 and 10:45 a.m. (beginning) and 11 to 11:45 a.m. (advanced).

Cost is \$45. Preregister by Wednesday, January 16.

Adult Ballroom Dancing

Come with or without a partner to this cabaret-style dance class, which is open to ages 16 and up. Ongoing classes meet according to the following schedule:

- beginners: 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at Halecreek Elementary.
- beginners: 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays at Cory Elementary.
- intermediate: 8 to 9 p.m. Mondays at Halecreek Elementary.
- intermediate: 8 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays at Cory Elementary.

Cost is \$8 (cash) per class. No preregistration is required.

On The Move

Don't forget to watch for *On the Move*, a cable television show about the City's recreation programs.

(Note: Until this month, *On the Move* aired on cable channel 18; however, due to Comcast's recent revision of its channel lineup, it will now show on channel 916.)

Taylor

22805 Goddard • 734-374-3906

Daddy/Daughter Dance

The annual Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held at Ford Senior Center (located at 6750 Troy) on Saturday, February 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. (Session I) and 7 to 9 p.m. (Session II). Fathers and daughters in grades K–6 will enjoy music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and beverages, souvenir photos, and door prizes; daughters will receive a corsage.

Cost is \$20 per couple, plus \$5 for each additional daughter. Tickets may be purchased at the Parks and Recreation Office beginning Tuesday, January 14. No tickets will be sold at the door. No refunds.

Alice in Wonderland

The Taylor Youth Theater's production of *Alice in Wonderland* – based on the 1951 Disney film and the novels *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll – will feature performances by children ages 6 to 13 under the direction of Debbie Aue. Choreographers for the program are Dione Carrico and Kayla Aue.

Shows will be held at the Taylor Community Center in Heritage Park (located on Pardee between Goddard and Northline) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 1; Saturday, February 2; Friday, February 8; and Saturday, February 9. A 3 p.m. performance is set for Sunday, February 10.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and children; groups of 20 or more pay \$5 per ticket. For more information, call the Taylor Recreation Department weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. or Debbie (313-295-6007) evenings and weekends.

Big Band Ball

The Taylor Cultural Arts Commission & Friends of the Arts will present their second annual Big Band Ball on Saturday, February 16, at the Grecian Center (located at 16300 Dix-Toledo in Southgate). Doors will open at 6 p.m., with dinner (roasted chicken, broiled fish, or sliced beef with mushrooms and onions, red-skin potatoes, green-bean almondine, and ice cream) at 6:30 p.m. and dancing from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available from 6 to 10:30 p.m.

Featured entertainment will be a dinner performance by Girls' Night Out (6 to 7:30 p.m.), music by Larry Huntington & the Skyliners, and a Silent Auction (6 to 9 p.m.).

Tickets (advance purchase only) are \$45 per person or \$80 per couple. Charge by phone at 734-287-6318. For more information, call the Taylor Recreation Office.

All proceeds will benefit the Taylor Friends of the Arts. □



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Telephone Number: _____

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Romulus City Hall • Treasurer's Office • 11111 Wayne Rd. • Romulus, MI 48174

Donations are tax deductible.

Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

Donors of \$25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

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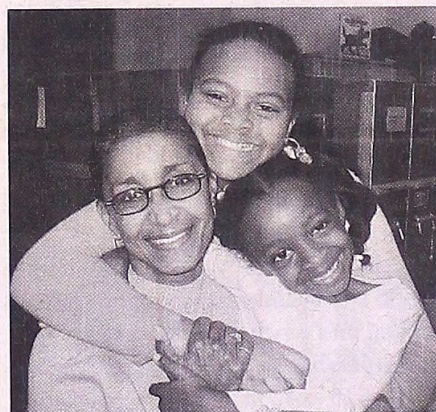


37235 Goddard • Romulus, MI
Near Five-Points Intersection
734-941-0343

Cory Stories



Cory Elementary principal Dorothy West (back, left), learning specialist Rob Baty (front, left), and literacy coach Kathy Hurst (front, right) recently welcomed Maranatha Gospel Church Pastor James Smith and evangelist Cathy Smith, who donated family-size Thanksgiving baskets for the less fortunate residents of Romulus.



Anthalynn Howard (center) and Arendia Hall (right) enjoyed the company of their grandmother, Deborah Thornton, when she came to Cory Elementary for its "Muffins for Moms" program, which was held in November. Altogether, more than 30 mothers, grandmothers, and caregivers took part in this always-popular event, sharing breakfast with the children while learning more about their school.



Rose Boatwright (back) and Carol Bodenmiller of the Helping Hand in Romulus were happy to accept a donation of 408 cans of food that Cory Elementary students like (from left) Jeshani Shinn, Cheyana Carney, and Toni Johnson collected during the school's recent food drive. The LEAGUE community-service program was led by Cory Student Council members, who were responsible for sorting and delivering the food when the drive was completed.

"Sassy Seniors" News

For more information about these or other programs, contact the appropriate senior center or other organization.

Brownstown

21311 Telegraph • 734-675-0920

Mardi Gras Dinner/Dance

The Center's annual Mardi Gras Dinner/Dance – set for Thursday, January 24 – promises to be an evening of great food, entertainment, and people. Highlights will include a catered meal, live music, door prizes, and a 50/50 raffle. Beverages served will include beer and wine.

Doors will open at 4 p.m., with dinner at 5 p.m. followed by dancing from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets (\$10 per person) will be available until January 18 or sold out.

New Enrichment Classes Planned

In the coming months, the Brownstown Senior Center will be offering several new enrichment classes in subjects as various as life journaling, poetry, art, and golf. Anyone interested in taking one (or more) of these spring/summer courses should sign the waiting list at the front desk.

Bingo Breakfast

Pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee are on the bill of fare for the Center's next Bingo Breakfast, set for 9 a.m. on Monday, January 21.

A donation of \$2.50 is requested from those who will not be playing bingo. Register in advance at the Recreation desk.

Potluck & Games Night

The Senior Center's next Potluck & Games Night is set for Monday, January 28, at 5 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass and a \$.50 donation, or come without a dish and make a \$3 donation. (The Center provides a meat dish and beverages.) Advance registration (at the Recreation desk) is required.

Pleasure Seekers Seek New Members

The Brownstown Pleasure Seekers social club is looking for new members interested in making friends and having a good time. The group, which meets from 1 to 3 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month, sponsors four senior dinner-dances a year along with other events.

Membership – open to all Downriver senior citizens ages 55 and up – is \$10 per year, plus a onetime \$2 charge for a name tag. To learn more about joining, see treasurer Helen St. Louis at one of the club's regular meetings. (Next event: Potluck & Bingo on January 17.)

"Red Hatters" Plan Movie Outing

The Red Hat Society's Brownstown Chapter is planning an "Afternoon at the Movies" on Tuesday, February 19. Transportation will depart from the Brownstown Community Center on at 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$18 per person.

Note that members and guests must dress in "full regalia" (red hat and purple outfit for women 50 and over; pink hat and lavender outfit for women under 50) when attending Red Hat Society meetings and events.

Membership is free.

Shopping Trips

For a transportation cost of just \$1, Brownstown seniors can ride the Center's bus to shop at the following destinations:

- Kroger (11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16, and Wednesday, January 30),
- Meijer (1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, and Tuesday, February 5), and
- Target/Kohl's (11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29).

Reserve a seat in person or by phone at least 24 hours in advance.

Travel Club Membership Renewal

Brownstown residents who would like to begin or renew membership in the Travel Club should pick up a registration form at the Center's front desk. Advantages of membership include discounts on trips offered by the Center.

The group's next meeting is set for Tuesday, January 14, at 11 a.m.

Upcoming Trips

Seniors are invited to take part in one or more of the following trips.

- *"Les Miserables"* (Tuesday, February 5; \$30 cost includes transportation, admission, and lunch),
- *Frankenmuth* (Wednesday, February 13; \$25 cost includes transportation, dinner, and pretzel-making, as well as an opportunity to shop), and
- *"Bewitched"* (Thursday, February 14; \$60 cost includes transportation, admission, and lunch at Kalloway's).

Romulus

36525 Bibbins • 734-955-4120

Tax Preparation Services

AARP will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday from January 30 through April 9 to provide tax preparation assistance to senior citizens (age 60 and older), low-income individuals, and persons with disabilities.

Tax services will also be offered at the Romulus Tower senior apartments building on Fridays (except Good Friday).

This service is available by appointment only. Call to make your reservation.

A list of items that should be brought to your appointment is available from the Center.

January Luncheon

This month's luncheon at the Center – set for 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 30 – will feature a menu of meatballs, shepherd's pie, and steamed vegetables, plus a "surprise" for every person who attends.

Cost is \$3.50. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

Jewelry Class

The next of Maria Lambert's immensely popular jewelry classes will be held at the Center on Wednesday, January 16, at 12:30 p.m. Make a bracelet or earrings – your choice.

Cost is \$10. Call to register.

Shopping Trips

Romulus seniors are invited to ride the Center's van, free of charge, for Monday morning (9:30 a.m.) shopping trips to:

- Super Wal-Mart (January 14), and
- Kmart (January 28).

Reservations are accepted on a first-come/first-served basis.

Upcoming Trips

Call the Senior Center for more information about any of the following trips.

- *Little River Casino & Resort* (Thursday–Friday, January 24–25; \$90),
- *Snow Fest in Frankenmuth* (Friday, January 25; \$70),
- *Casino Windsor* (Tuesday, February 12; \$10), and
- *Windsor Racetrack* (Tuesday, January 29; \$10).

Regular Programs

Free or low-cost weekly programs offered at the Romulus Senior Center include:

- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.)
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.)
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.)
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.)
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.)
- chair exercise (Fridays, 1 p.m.)

Free Hearing Test

A Michigan-licensed hearing aid specialist will be at the Romulus Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, to conduct free hearing screenings to see if further testing is necessary. Most insurances are accepted.

Call to make an appointment.

Hot Lunches

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

Taylor

6750 Troy • 313-291-7740

Tax Preparation Services

AARP will be at the Ford Senior Center each Thursday from February 7 through April 10 to perform free tax preparation services for low- and middle-income persons, with special attention to seniors age 60 and over and persons with disabilities. Most returns will be electronically filed.

This service is available by appointment only. Call to make your reservation.

Homestead Tax Preparation

Each Monday beginning January 28, volunteers at the Ford Senior Center will help senior citizens (age 65 and older) and persons with disabilities prepare their Homestead Property Tax returns. Most returns will be electronically filed.

This service is available by appointment only. *Do not call to make your reservation until you have received your 2007 tax form.*

Afternoon at the Movies

The Ford Senior Center has planned an Afternoon at the Movies that will feature a gourmet buffet and dessert plus a first-run movie (*27 Dresses*) with free popcorn and beverages throughout the film. The bus will depart from the Center on Tuesday, January 15, at 10:15 a.m., and return at about 4 p.m.

A cost of \$18.75 per person covers transportation, lunch, and the show.

Murder Mystery

If you love whodunits, you won't want to miss "A Murder Mystery," performed by the Prime Time Players. The program will be offered on Friday, January 25, at 2 p.m. (senior matinee) and 7 p.m. (general public), and on Saturday, January 26, at 7 p.m. (general public).

Tickets are \$7 for adults; \$5 for senior citizens and children. For more information, contact the Center.

Sweetheart Dinner/Dance

The Ford Senior Center will host a Sweetheart Dinner/Dance from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, February 15. A catered meal and music by Solitaire will be featured.

Tickets (\$12) must be purchased by Friday, February 8.

Watercolor Workshop

A watercolor workshop will be offered at the Center each Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$7 plus supplies (bring your own or buy from the teacher for \$1.50 per week).

Golf Registration

Registration for the *Wednesday Senior Mixed League* is open until February 4 for all regular golfers. Substitutes may register through April. Fees are \$15 for regulars, \$5 for substitutes.

Registration for the *Lakes Mixed League* and *Lakes Men's League* will also continue through April. Fees are \$9 for each.

Volunteer Work with Students

Share the valuable gift of your time and attention on Friday, January 18, when Ford Center seniors will travel to Fischer Elementary School to spend an hour reading to and working with students. Transportation will be provided.

Sign up in the office if you would like to participate in this worthwhile program.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

the little paper
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Obituaries

O. Marie Domcik

O. Marie Domcik of Belleville, Michigan, passed away on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, at the age of 82.

The former resident of Romulus, Michigan, was born on Tuesday, January 6, 1925, in Monticello, Kentucky.

Marie, an avid shopper, was a very social person who will be missed by all who knew her. She was a member of the Women of the Belleville Moose, Van Buren Eagles Ladies Auxiliary, Order of the Eastern Star, and Huron Valley Conservation Association.

Surviving Marie are her daughter, Peggy Domcik (Belleville); her son, Larry (Barb) Domcik (Frederic, MI); a grandson, Timothy

Domcik; and 7 siblings, Ollie Blevins, Vera Morton, Flonnie Stone, Joyce Baskin, James Bell, Donald Bell, and Glenna Sue Nelson.

Among those who preceded her in passing were her parents, Forest Ray and Fanny Renee (Cole) Bell; 2 brothers, Eldon and Garvin Bell; and a sister, Christine Alexander.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, December 22, at David C. Brown Funeral Home (Belleville), with Chaplain John A. Danks officiating. Interment was at Mt. Hope Cemetery (Livonia, MI).

Memorial contributions to the family would be greatly appreciated.

Christine Powell

Christine Powell of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, at the age of 83.

The native of Highland Park, Michigan – born on Saturday, April 5, 1924 – enjoyed clothing design and collecting and styling wigs.

Christine is survived by her son, Randall C. Powell (Romulus), and her daughter, Sharon L. Powell (Southgate, MI).

Among those who predeceased her were her parents, John E. and Margaret

(Fraser) Fraser; her husband, Clayton B. Powell (who passed away on Sunday, September 8, 1996); and a sister, Margaret E. Richardson.

A funeral service was held on Monday, December 24, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Marvin Hawbaker (Calvary Baptist Church, Romulus) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Memorials to the family (for later designation) would be appreciated. □



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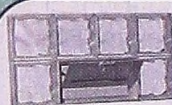
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